



Addressing Sexual Assault from a Radical Perspective

June 24-26, 2005

Born In Flames:

wishes to thank the following for their help on this conference, without this support this conference would not have been possible. .

Aimee Shattuck &
The Portland State Women's Resource
Center

Tony, Sami, & all the folks at Liberty Hall, Tony at newurbanartist.com, The Portland Alliance, In Other Words, Food Not Bombs, Eberhardt Press, Mississippi Pizza, The Star E Rose, Drunk Inthar, T-Rexxxa, Glamstar, Emily Herring, Franchesca, Jen & Ari for childcare, Colleen Cook, Dar & Dawn, Dou-ble Trouble, Angel G., Claire, The Treehouse, The Slanty Shanty, Brandon Batzloff @ Free Voices, The Moonwater House (R.I.P), The Blank House, James, Finn, Abby, Dave Ne-gation, Portland's Men Group, Slug & Let-tuce, Clamor Magazine, Bitch Magazine, Slingshot Newspaper, Indymedia, James at Gato En Fuego, All the facilitators at hold-ing workshops and discussions at the confer-ence, All the bands and performers who've done shows for Bif, to all the merciless vol-unteers who have shared their time with us, the different organizers that have been in-volved in getting this conference together, & anyone else we failed to mention.

Thank You All!

XOXOXO

Born in Flames

Night Events

Thursday, 6/24:

We're showing the movie
Born in Flames

Friday, 6/25:

St. Helen's
Jalin
Drunk Inthar

Saturday, 6/26:

T-Rexxxa
Burlesque by Double Trouble
Spoken word by francesca
and More!!

All events are being held at
Liberty Hall, 311 N. Ivy
and start at 8pm.

Rogue

Rogue is a bipolar genderqueer survivor. Ze does a zine on mental health called Rogue Elf and has facilitated many conversations on mental health in the past. She is always looking to create dialogue on support, community, accountability, and radical honesty. His current projects include an anthology of youth experiences with institutionalization.

Timothy Kelly

Timothy Kelly has been an advocate around mental health issue for years. In addition to working with the icarus project facilitating discussions around mental health/illness, he serves on the board of directors of empowerment initiatives, a portland based non-profit working towards self-determination in Oregon's mental health system. Timothy is a caseworker in portlands homeless youth system.

Tom Pierson

I'm a member of the men's group - Dealing With Our Shit (DWOS) - in Minneapolis, and am a volunteer with Sexual Offense Services (also in Minnesota). For my paid time, I provide support to worker cooperatives in start-up or transition around the U.S., and work in a worker-owned restaurant in Minneapolis.

Skunkrising A. Midnight

Skunkrising A. Midnight - Euro-mutt, born into an large, mostly adopted, mixed-race, lower-middle-class, liberal-catholic family in the middle of Iowa. Currently commuting between Flagstaff, Az, and Ithaca, NY. Co-founder of the Wemoons Army and co. Director of P.M.S. Media. Radical-Mom, Martial-ARTist, Musician, Performer, Writer, Reporter, Film-maker. Feminist-Pagan-Witch with a deep desire for extreme social change.

valentine

portland born. likes sex with a generous help-ing of vitamins and natural supplements. would liketo see more cats in tuxedos.

Look a place for more
notes...

Crystal K. Uchino

Crystal K. Uchino is a young queer woman of color living in Flagstaff, AZ. Author of many self published zines and essays on issues of race, gender, and violence. Currently investing her energies into p.m.s. media, wemoons army and co., and black mesa indigenous support, which are vessels to support the voices of her friends and community through media advocacy, organizing, and direct social change and dialogue.

Emi Koyama

Emi Koyama is a multi-issue social justice slut, currently working as the director of Portland, Oregon based Intersex Initiative. Emi can be reached at emi@eminism.org.

five o'clock

five o'clock is an Irish/Scottish "white" queer/fag survivor with ptsd and add. Currently, 5s focus is with trans/gender/queer & anti-capitalist education and organizing as well as education surrounding safer, more consensual sex practices. 5 writes/ed its zines, loves bikes, firepits, large bodies of water, continental philosophy, cable drama series on dvd, friends and Skid.

Holly Harwood

Holly Harwood recently graduated from New College of California with a BA in Activism and Social Change. She is director of content for Harwood Information Technology and a performance poet. For the past five years she has moderated the Healing Grove, an online support group for sexual assault survivors with over two hundred members. She lives with her spouse, youngest child, and menagerie in the SF Bay Area.

Kim Christoffel

Kim Christoffel hails from Minneapolis. In addition to working with the icarus project, she helped found the bat annex free school, and has done organizing work around body image and eating disorders. she is part of the Northland Poster Collective, a 26 year old union print shop that creates art and other tools for organizing.

lauren hartley

lauren hartley is a 25-year old anarchist living in portland. she has spent the past 2 and half years immersed in community organizing around sexual assault and sexism within punk/activists circles. she's immensely proud to have been part of this conference and to work with the rock star organizers in portland.

lee hunter

Lee Hunter is a Portland-based wage slave who wants to destroy the world of wage labor. In between swilling beer, riding bikes, and listening to heavy metal Hunter, spends much of her spare time developing public workshops and writing. Recently, Hunter has focused on ways to challenge gender norms, as well as to explore liberated relationships and sexuality.

Dendron

Dendron has had a couple years experience fighting the evils of patriarchy in different activist communities, has had part in writing anti-oppression policies and efforts at putting them into place in those communities to attempt to create safer spaces for people trying to fight those same evils directed at our earth. She is extremely passionate about learning how to create healthy relationships, healthy communities, and healthier communicative practices and believes in radical action against the scum who seep through the walls of our tight nit communities and infect our bodies, minds and hearts with violence...

Safer Space Policy

ability, we have witnessed healing and undergone learning experiences. We want to examine processes that perpetrators could go thru in order to empower the survivor while holding the perpetrator accountable and facilitate re-entry into the community for all involved. We believe that the needs of survivors should be at the center of creating these processes, and in order for that to happen, safer spaces that exclude perpetrators are essential in allowing that dialogue to occur.

In the future we hope our safer space policies can evolve along with us and incorporate perpetrators where appropriate.

We desire more discourse surrounding healthier, consensual sex practices, and proactive measures of sexual assault prevention. We wish to build solidarity in our communities with survivors of sexual assault and their allies by providing a space for education, networks of support that include accountability and survivor empowerment. Based on our experiences, as well as what we have heard from survivors in our communities and elsewhere, we have come to understand that the presence of known sexual assault perpetrators will be triggering and disruptive to the healing process. Known sexual assault perpetrators will be asked to leave.

We wish to acknowledge survivors of all kinds, and pay respect to our predecessors - living, imprisoned, or dead - that live(d) to survive and dismantle the violating, lethal forces of imperialism, colonialism, white supremacy, capitalism, and patriarchy.

Empowerment to persons that are not normally in a place of power and privilege

Born in Flames Conference organizers have chosen to employ our Safer Space Policy (SSP) for a number of reasons:

We firmly believe that safer space policies are a step in providing a community that is more supportive to survivors and their allies. We must also recognize that there is no such thing as a completely safe space and that one persons safety needs can jeopardize another's.

Violent legacies of oppression are invested in virtually every aspect of our environments and socializations. We are all capable of internalizing and perpetuating these oppressions no matter where we are. It is necessary to outline steps toward a safer space where conference participants intentionally strive to create a sense of mutual aid and peer support to process these painful, personal topics.

The goal of the Born in Flames Conference is to provide a space for productive and inspiring dialogue centered on issues of sexual assault and to enable our selves to work against sexual assault and its causes in our lives. We, the organizers, believe that in order to accomplish this goal it is vital to create an accessible safer space where participants identify and halt oppressive statements, behaviors, and actions.

As our statement of purpose shows, there has been a recent movement in Portland of organizing around issues of sexual assault in our communities for more than two years. Through direct actions, community consciousness raising and processes of account-

in this society is the goal of this SSP. A safer space does not allow racist, able-bodiedist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, classist or any other language or actions that are harmful to any individual. Anyone engaging in these behaviors will be asked to leave.

If you need assistance or would like support in asking someone to leave you can contact security or anyone at the welcome table. A room has also been provided with DIY counselors, access to a cell phone and a space to sit away from the workshops as long as needed. If you are asked to leave security will escort you outside. Dialogue regarding this request can be held at a later date and time as this conference is not a space for this discussion to take place.

Accessibility

One of our highest priorities in organizing this conference is that it is accessible as possible to people of all abilities. The Born In Flames Conference will take place at the Smith Memorial Student Union building at PSU, which is fully accessible to mobility devices. In addition, we have rented a portable ADA-compliant restroom at Liberty Hall so that all our events there will be accessible to mobility devices.

We ask that all conference participants help us make the conference as close as possible to a scent-free space. Most products with chemical or "natural" scents are inhospitable to people with immune dysfunctions like multiple chemical sensitivities,

fibromyalgia and environmental illness, to name a few. In general, this can mean washing your clothes and body in scent-free products detergents and baking soda, using scent-free soap, hair products, lotion, etc., and avoiding perfume, smoke and pet hair. We will be cleaning all classrooms and bathrooms that we will use for the conference with scent-free cleaning products, and stocking the bathrooms with scent-free soaps. We will also clean Liberty Hall with scent-free products.

ASL interpreters will be provided for free at the conference, and will be available for interpretation of workshops, discussions, etc. If you need ASL interpretation, please come to the welcome table and let us know so we can hook you up with the interpreters.

A separate chill out room is available with qualified people offering support at the conference site for anyone who feels triggered, super-stressed, and/or just needs to get away. This is room 326. Cellphones will be available here as well.

There is a supervised play area available for children of all ages during the conference. If you need childcare, please let us know at the welcome table.

Lastly, if you have any questions about accessibility, childcare, or anything else, or if there are any issues of accessibility that you would like to make sure that we are addressing, we would love to hear from you.

If you have any other special needs, or any accessibility issues that we have not adequately addressed, please come to the welcome table or talk to a conference organizer.

Facilitator Bios

Alex Lundberg

Very simply, my name is Alex Lundberg. I live in Minneapolis, MN and have been a member of our Mens Group, Dealing With Our Shit for over two years now. Also, this past year I helped organize Sexy Spring, a sex positive conference which talks about issues of consent and sexual assault in a safer and positive atmosphere (the Mens Group also did a workshop there).

Chach

Chach has over three years of experience in community education and workshop facilitation within and out of radical communities. She practices popular education training techniques based on Augusto Boal's Theater of the Oppressed. Her focus has been on women's diy health education, anti-oppression/ unlearning privilege, healthy sex and preventing sexual assault

Brian

Brian has been involved in varying degrees to community responses to assault issues within various activist communities in Cascadia since 2001. He's been involved in developing accountability processes for perpetrators that communities have attempted to reintegrate as well as in addressing community response to conflicts, especially when accountability processes broke down. He has been a support for survivors, been involved in numerous meetings and many more discussions on how activist communities can best address violence and has also been involved in more "direct action" responses to rape. He has strived to be an ally to the womyn and trans only campaigns and action that have taken place over the past 2 years and been a ongoing supporter of efforts in the forest defense community to make an anti-oppression a basic value for forest defense communities and campaigns.

Colleen Cook

I'm a furious woman who is tired off bullshit and refuses to accept an openly hostile environment against primarily, but not limited to, women within "safe" activist communities. I've been fighting sexual abuse and harassment in my community, and helping to organize for positive change and discussion locally to confront these issues.

Courtney Trouble

courtney trouble lives within fusion of art, sexuality, politics, and raw intellect. she's a queer femme survivor who (quite literally) wears her heart on her sleeve. she has about one million projects, the most notable perhaps being her politically-charged porn site, NoFauxxx.Com. other photography, web design, and activist projects can be found at courtneytrouble.com.

cristien storm

I have over fifteen years working with survivors of assault in various capacities. Since 1993 i have eveloped and facilitated self defense and boundary setting training's that look at both individual and community responses to violence. As a writer and performer i have addressed issues of sexual oppression, gender bias and violence in my work. I am also a survivor and have incorporated my life experiences in my organizing work. Currently i am a therapist and one of my areas of focus is trauma.

Discussions

The rooms and times for discussions is TBA, please check in with the welcome desk for finalized room numbers and times.

These are the discussions topics that were sent to us in advance, but if you want to hold a discussion about a topic that's important to you, please come to the sign-in room. There are sign-ups for ad-hoc discussions. The more the better. This weekend is raising a number of complicated issues that won't ever completely be covered in three days of workshops. Make the space you need! This is a chance for all the participants coming to the conference to create the conference they want - to add topics we have overlooked or simply didn't have anyone to facilitate the workshop. We encourage everyone to become part of the conference by contributing your voice and knowledge.

Saturday, June 25th

10:30-12:30/ RM 328

Survivor Centered Support and Community Safety

This discussion will explore the interactions between survivor centered support and community safety around sexual perpetrators. Some questions to consider for the discussion: how can a survivor centered approach include secondary victims? should it? are there secondary victims? if a survivor's wishes are to not address the presence of the perpetrator, how can communities deal with their own issues of safety?

Facilitated by Alex Lundberg & Kim Christoffel

Saturday, June 25th

1:30-3:30/ RM 327

Support & Accountability:

An informal discussion centered on questions like - what does support and community accountability look like for someone who is both a survivor and a perpetrator? We will discuss different processes in support and accountability networks/communities... what has worked? what is good? who are we to judge?

Facilitated by moe & five

Sunday, June 26th

10:30-12:30/ RM 327

Alcohol and Consent:

This will be a facilitated discussion on how drug and alcohol use sometimes leads to bad decisions, particularly when it comes to sex. What can be done to keep these sometimes traumatic experiences from occurring? When is someone too intoxicated to give consent? How can we set up a support network to look out for each other? The path the discussion will take will depend on its participants. This issue needs to be addressed!

Facilitated by Rogue

Workshops

Day One

Friday, June 24th

10:30-12:30 ~ RM 329

Why Make Assumptions?

Sex, Gender & Desire

This workshop will attempt to cover the basics of sex, gender & desire, the differences between these identities, what they mean to us, and how we fuck with them. We will also focus on how assumptions are made about individuals based on these dynamics and how we can use this workshop to build skills for the workshops during this conference.

Facilitated by Lee Hunter

1:30-12:30 ~ RM 329

Lunch 12:30-1:30

Healthier Sex

The goal of this workshop is to provide an environment to begin sharing and learning about what healthy sex is. We will cover: body image, trust, communication techniques, consent, physical dangers to the body, STD's and resources.

Facilitated by Chach, Five & Valentine

10:30-12:30 ~ RM 327

Consent 1: The Basics

This workshop will cover what consent is and what it is NOT, ways to understand peoples signs for consent and ways for you to ask for consent, as well as, figuring out ways to reach the ultimate safe and healthy sex. During the workshop, we'll discuss healthy communication, create our own definitions of consent, and think about healthy sex goals for the future.

This workshop is part of an series on consent created by members of the Hysteria Collective.

Facilitated by Lauren Harley

1:30-12:30 ~ RM 327

What's so Special About Sexual

Assault?

From individual acts of violence to the global injustices of war and poverty, the world is full of violence. By focusing on the horrors of sexual violence, we run the risk of overlooking the very real social inequalities and injustices, allowing ourselves to be manipulated into supporting solutions that are incompatible with our commitment to the broader social justices, such as reliance on police and law enforcement, mandated reporting, mandatory arrest laws, censorship, etc. that ultimately disempower survivors. We will discuss how we can continue to take sexual violence seriously while keeping it in the context of broader social justice movements

Facilitated by Emi Koyama

Break 3:30-4pm

4-6 pm ~ RM 328

Guy-necology: Men, Sex & Power.

An intimate discussion involving the sharing of personal experiences about sex, relationships and how the two interact. This workshop will be Queer/Straight friendly and focused on making positive changes in the way male identified folks communicate and act with our partners and community at large.

Facilitated by Mike Antiopathy

4-6 pm ~ RM 327

Internal Resistance: Holding organizations accountable and confronting your community

This workshop will confront and discuss some of the obstacles organizations and communities face as they address internal issues of sexual violence.

Discussion topics will include: the roles an organization plays in creating and maintaining an unsafe environment for its members, how to identify, trust, and involve allies, speaking up and demanding results, confronting and fighting stereotypes, the suppression of the truth - keeping it "internal," dealing with retaliation, finding "justice" within consensus-based, authoritarian, and/or nontraditional communities, and finally- solidarity with others - organizing and educating nationwide. Participant involvement is encouraged, as it is absolutely critical to engage other's testimonies and experiences in this discussion and process.

Facilitated by Colleen Cook



In secret, we perpetuate these cycles of abuse by not
openly confronting and challenging them

Day Three Sunday, June 26th

10:30-12:30 ~ RM 329

Accountability through mentoring perpetrators

Dealing With Our Shit/Sexism (DWOS) members Alex and Tom will give a brief history of their group in Minneapolis, and how they began working with perpetrators of sexual assault in their community. There will be an overview of the accountability process they use - called "mentoring", followed by time for questions and discussion.

Facilitated by Alex Lundberg & Tom Pierson

10:30-12:30 ~ RM 328

circles

Researched and Directed by Shanti Thakur

A film about justice and community healing, CIRCLES is an inside look at sentencing circles - an alternative approach to sentencing offenders in the Yukon. By bringing together the perpetrator of crime, his or her victims, peers and elders, sentencing circles focus on finding ways to heal the offender, the victim and the community, instead of simply punishment. For many Aboriginal men in the North, going to jail was a natural extension of attending residential schools run by missionaries. For some circle sentencing is a way to re-connect with their spiritual traditions and to break away from the cycle of crime, court, prison.

1997 Documentary

Lunch 12:30-1:30

1:30-3:30 ~ RM 327

The Rhetorical Politics of Safety

Safety is our fundamental human right, but the rhetoric of safety could be used to undermine others' safety. For example, creating a women-only space may feel safe to many survivors, but how does it feel to trans people who are survivors, or people who have been hurt by women? Or, how the emphasis on egalitarian relationship among women feel "safe" to white women and "unsafe" toward women of color? When people are being unjustly detained, imprisoned, deported, excluded, refugeeed or killed by our government in the name of defending our "security," we need to critically rethink uses and abuses of the rhetoric of safety within our movements as well as in the society. Come join us for discussion.

Facilitated by Emi Koyama

1:30-3:30 ~ RM 329

Creating an effective response to sexual violence in activist communities

The herstory of anti-oppression policies in several activist communities using stories and previous experience to look at what has worked and what hasn't, the obstacles to actualizing a policy in patriarchal campaigns, the effectiveness of them due to each situation being so unique, and how to motivate people to take part in creating a safe space to work in and not just abstractly supporting them from afar.

Ways to create a response as situations surface that is both healthy for survivors and inclusive of community support along with good for the campaigns goals and energy levels.

Accountability processes; their place in activist communities; effectiveness in the past, and new ideas to bypass the extreme energy drained from entire communities implementing them

Facilitated by Brian & Dendron

Break 3:30-4pm

4-6 pm ~ RM 328

P.M.S. Media Presents: A Video-Vigil and Media-Watch Strategy Session

The workshop will include, screenings of 3 short documentaries by P.M.S. Media, facilitated discussion on issues of violence against women brought up in the short documentaries, a short presentation of core issues and experiences P.M.S. Media has encountered within the alt-media scene, and discussion of strategy for holding ring-masters and mistresses in the three-ring-media-circus accountable for representation on issues of violence against women and gender out-laws. we can use media as a tool to tell our own stories and generate culture. we can organize to hold indy-media accountable for representation of issues of sexualized-violence against women, children, and gender deviants.

Facilitated by Crystal K. Uchino & Skunkrising A. Midnight

4-6 pm ~ RM 327

* T.B.A. *

To sign up for TBA slots, please go to the welcome desk.



Day Two Saturday, June 25th

10:30-12:30 ~ RM 329

**Consent 2: Drugs & Alcohol,
Mental Health, Survivor Support**

This workshop is the second part of a series of workshops on sex and consent. We will have a more indepth discussion about consent and how it relates to drugs & alcohol, mental health, and survivor support.

**Facilitated by Lauren Hartley
& Lee Hunter**

10:30-12:30 ~ RM 328

**Creating Online Communities
Grounded in the Arts**

We will discuss how to create and maintain safe, healthy online communities, and how to create websites for sexual assault prevention and support, even if you know little or nothing about computers. For the past five years I have moderated the Healing Grove, an online support group for survivors of incest and sexual abuse and their allies with over 200 members. I also created and maintained the group's website, which consistently ranks in the top 5 for its category in the search engines. When I began this work I literally knew nothing about computers beyond how to "type."

Facilitated by Holly Harwood

Lunch 12:30-1:30

1:30-3:30 ~ RM 328

**Home Alive:
Boundary Setting Workshop**

Participants will explore boundaries, defining whom we set boundaries with, and the tools we use to set and maintain healthy boundaries with the people in our lives. We will also practice these skills in role plays related to real-life situations.

Each workshop pulls from a general set of principles and information but is designed for the particular group we are working with. This workshop, for example, will look at boundary setting and negotiation in various aspects of our lives but will focus on issues around sexuality, sex, sensuality, and how we can interact in a world where gender violence and sexual assault are embedded in the cultural fabric.

Facilitated by cristien storm

1:30-3:30 ~ RM 329

**Surviving & Thriving: Conversations
About Mental Illness and Trauma**

This workshop is open to everyone; crazy folk, survivors, and supporters of both. After a brief presentation on the topic of being crazy and/or a survivor, how they relate and how they don't, the presenter will facilitate a discussion. It is very open ended, and will be mostly directed by participants. Brainstorming on ways to support crazy people and survivors will be a goal, as well as simply creating as safe a space as possible for people to talk about their experiences. SOFFAs are welcome to attend, but priority will be given to the voices of crazy people and survivors.

Facilitated by Rogue

4-6pm ~ RM 327

**Mad Love: a workshop on radical
mental health with the icarus project.**

This workshop will explore mental health with two members of the Icarus Project, a bipolar support and activist group that explores and addresses mental illness from a radical perspective.

In this workshop, we will discuss our own struggles with mental illness, the necessity for new language to talk about mental illness, community support of those dealing with mental health, and connections and parallels between the radical mental health movement and radical responses to sexual assault. (depending upon the number of people attending, this will be in discussion format).

**Facilitated by Timothy Kelly and Kim
Christoffel**

4-6pm ~ RM 328

**Make Your Own Smut: Radical
Porn & Why It's Important!**

This workshop will look at some porn, talk about porn, and more. This workshop is open to anybody over the age of 18, but especially to the women & queers who want to be introduced of the beautiful & mysterious world of DIY Smut. This is a sex positive, queer positive, size positive space and absolutely no negativity will be tolerated. This workshop is intended to be a celebration of porn and sexuality, not a debate about whether it's "right" or not. This workshop has been presented at Evergreen State College (Olympia, WA) as part of the Gender & Sexuality Conference, and the National Conference for Organised Resistance in Washington DC.

Facilitated by Courtney Trouble

**You can easily round up
500 black clad anarchists
to fuck shit up at a frat
house where rapists live,
but someone points a
finger at a "progressive"
man and all of a sudden
there's a process...**

